representation on the basis that such revision of pay scales in other Ministries such as Ministry of Urban Development and Ministry of Communications and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi has been granted; and

(c) by when the same will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Representations for grant of higher pay scales to Junior Engineers (Electrical/Civil) of Civil Construction Wing, All India Radio have been received and these have been examined from time to time in consultation with concerned Ministries/Departments of the Government. However, the proposal for revision of pay scale has not been agreed to. The Ministry is again considering the issue and as the approval requires involvement of various offices/departments etc., it is not possible to indicate a definite time frame, in which a decision in the matter will be taken.

सूचना संबंधी माध्यमों के लिए स्वतन्त्रता

303. **श्री राम जेठमलानी :**
श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज :

क्या सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार ने सिद्धांत रूप में यह स्वीकार कर लिया है कि देश के सूचना एवं प्रसारण संबंधी सभी माध्यमों को हर प्रकार के नियंत्रण से मुक्त रखा जाना चाहिए ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार ने आकाशवाणी तथा दूरदर्शन जैसे प्रसारण माध्यमों को सरकारी नियंत्रण से मुक्त रखने का भी निर्णय किया है ;

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो उन्हें सरकारी नियंत्रण स कब तक मुक्त किये जाने की संभावना है ?

सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री के० पी० सिंह देव) : (क) से (घ) सरकार प्रेस के कार्यकलापों में हस्तक्षेप न करने की नीति का पालन करती है और इसके कार्यकरण में हस्तक्षेप नहीं करती। सरकार प्रेस की स्वतंत्रता बनाए रखने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है।

यद्यपि दूरदर्शन और आकाशवाणी सरकारी माध्यम है तथापि वे अपने दिन-प्रतिदिन के कार्यकलापों में पूर्व कार्यात्मक स्वायत्ता का उपयोग करते हैं। प्रसार भारती (भारतीय प्रसारण निगम) अधिनियम 1990 में दूरदर्शन और आकाशवाणी को एक निगम के रूप में परिवर्तित करने हेतु प्रावधान निहित है। अधिनियम के विद्यमान प्रावधानों में कुछ परिवर्तन करने के बाद इसे परिचालित करने का प्रस्ताव है।

Programmes on Rural Development and Education on Doordarshan

304. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:
SHRI JALALUDDIN ANSARI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the suggestion made by Prof. Padmanabhan, Director of the Indian Institute of Science that two of the Doordarshan channels should be devoted to education and rural development considering the national priority as reported in the 'Hindu' of 4th February, 1995; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b) The suggestion made by Prof. Padmanabhan, Director of the Indian Institute of Science relating to separate channels devoted to education

and rural development does not appear to have been published in the Delhi edition of the 'Hindu' dated 4th February, 1995. There is no proposal to introduce separate channels on Doordarshan exclusively for education and rural development on account of constraints of resources and manpower; nonetheless, 39 per cent of total telecast time on the National Channel is devoted to educational and development programmes. Besides there is now an exclusive channel for education and development operated by the Department of Space, Ministry of Rural Development and IGNOU.

Quality of Urdu Programmes

305. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the broadcast quality of Urdu Programmes on ESD (External Services Division) and NSD (News Services Division) being relayed from Akashwani Delhi and other stations has deteriorated steeply; and

(b) what measures are being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) No, Sir. However, it is the constant endeavour of All India Radio to bring about a qualitative improvement in their programmes.

(b) Does not arise

Fraudulent procurement of Newsprint

306. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of publications are only printing voucher copies and obtain news print quota on bogus circulation figures;

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take against such bogus publications; and

(c) the number of such publications identified during 1991-92, 1992-93, 1993-94 and the names of such publications and the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (c) Entitlement certificate for import/purchase of newsprint from scheduled indigenous mills is not issued by the Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI) to any newspaper whose circulation claim is declared unestablished. During the last three years, the entitlement certificates issued to the following newspapers where cancelled by RNI due to unestablishment of their circulation claims:—

1. Somantak, Marathi Daily, Goa.

2. Sunday Mail, English Weekly, Bombay.

3. Rajkiya Rampa, Kannada Weekly, Bangalore.

Exhibition of 'Bandit Queen' at International Film Festival

307. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 'Bandit Queen', a film based on Phoolan Devi's biography, was exhibited in the recent International Film Festival even before the Board of Film Censors had cleared it;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the 'Indian Express' of the 2nd October, 1994 under the caption "Phoolan Devi hits out at filmy violators"; and